

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CDF Seeks Public Input for Jackson Demonstration State Forest

Sacramento- The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) today released a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analyzing its new proposed management plan and other options for managing the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) in Mendocino County. CDF is encouraging the public to review the report and submit written comments by July 1, 2002. Copies of the report are available on the CDF website at www.fire.ca.gov, at the CDF offices in Santa Rosa at 135 Ridgeway Avenue, in Willits at 17501 Highway 101 North, in Fort Bragg at 802 North Main Street, and at city libraries in Ukiah, Santa Rosa, and Fort Bragg. A public hearing on the draft EIR will be held **in Ukiah, CA on June 12, 2002, from 3-5 PM and 6-8 PM at the Mendocino County Fair Grounds, Fine Arts Building at 1055 N. State Street.** At the hearing CDF will provide information about the EIR and allow members of the public up to 3 minutes each to provide oral comments.

The draft EIR evaluates the impacts of the proposed new management plan on the environment and the surrounding community. "The JDSF plan provides critical information and education essential in creating models that will resolve conflicts over complex forest management issues," stated Patty Campbell, Mendocino County Supervisor. "This welcome plan strikes the right balance between protecting old growth forest and promoting the economic stability of our region," added Campbell. As currently proposed, the plan would protect all of the remaining identified old growth groves and create almost 10,000 acres of old growth quality habitat over time – 20% of the forest.

CDF has been actively restoring the 50,000-acre forest ever since the state acquired it in 1947 after it had been heavily damaged by excessive logging. "Today the Jackson is a beautiful, thriving forest

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that produces significantly more forest growth than is harvested every year," said CDF Director Andrea Tuttle. "This forest will continue to provide recreation for future generations and high-quality habitat for fish and wildlife under CDF management. With the public input gained from this process, we will refine our management plan and bring it before the



Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for final approval this summer,” added Tuttle.

The Forest provides many benefits to Mendocino County residents as well as all the citizens of California. “Jackson Demonstration State Forest offers any visitor an unequaled variety of recreational choices and freedom. You can ride a horse or mountain bike through the soft forest light, experience the thrill of watching salmon in the creeks or spotted owls in the old forest, camp in the solitude of towering redwoods, or enjoy the everyday pleasure of cutting firewood or hunting mushrooms,” said Marcia McNally, UC Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning. “I am pleased that this new plan will expand these outstanding recreational opportunities and ensure that future generations have the same high quality experience the forest provides today,” added McNally.

Unlike a state park, the Legislature has mandated that Jackson be a working forest. In response, CDF has been actively demonstrating sustainable forestry at Jackson. “The Jackson State Forest plays a unique role by serving as a world class, living laboratory for research and education. Currently, dozens of scientific projects are underway including research on water quality, endangered salmon recovery, spotted owl habitat relationships, Sudden Oak Death, and invasive weeds,” stated Bob Ziemer, Chief Research Hydrologist, USDA Forest Service and key scientist conducting research at Jackson for 40 years. “The State Forest is essential for developing and testing the latest theories about sustainable resource management. Research on the Forest shows landowners and the public how to maximize environmental protection while harvesting timber for wood and paper products,” added Dr. Ziemer.

“CDF is updating the management plan to make it consistent with the most recent ideas in forestry,” added Director Tuttle. “By requesting public comment on the draft Environmental Impact Report, we hope to help people understand how this unique demonstration forest works and to hear their reaction to our proposed management. The EIR process provides us with an important opportunity to involve the public in decisions affecting this special environmental treasure” added Tuttle. For more information about the EIR and the Forest, contact Christopher Rowney at 916 653-9420.

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